

LOG OF MEETING

U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER MARY SHEILA GALL

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared  
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**SUBJECT:** GAS WATER HEATERS

**DATE OF MEETING:** JUNE 28, 1994

**PLACE:** CPSC Headquarters/Commissioner Gall's Office/Rook 722

**LOG ENTRY SOURCE:** PATSY SEMPLE

**DATE OF ENTRY:** JUNE 29, 1994

**COMMISSION ATTENDEES:**

Commissioner Mary Sheila Gall  
Bruce Navarro  
Patricia Semple

**NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:**

Rueben Autery, President, GAMA  
Jack p. Langhead, Vice President, GAMA  
Joe Mattingly, GAMA's, General Counsel,

**SUMMARY OF MEETING:**

SEE ATTACHMENT

Notes on meeting with GAMA

Attendees: listed on calendar

Discussed the ongoing activities of the water heater industry to address the risk of flammable vapor ignition by gas-fired water heaters and some misconceptions they felt were presented at the briefing.

--though the industry feels the problem is not with the product itself but with careless use of flammable liquids, over the years they have maintained efforts to educate the public about this hazard

--noted the extensive education and information program undertaken by GAMA investing millions to educate the public about the hazards of using gasoline indoors and to evaluate proposed solutions to prevent water heaters from igniting flammable vapors

--GAMA values the Commission's continued support of their Water Heater Division's Consumer Safety Awareness Campaign...which now addresses prevention of hot water scalds as well as the safe use of gasoline and other flammable liquids

--talked about willingness to brief staff on their testing of the effects of water heater elevation on ignition of flammable vapors and interest in continuing to work with staff in evaluating other proposed solutions to the problem

--felt the briefing did not accurately portray the cooperative role of GAMA in working with staff on this activity and that material on testing was missing from the briefing package

--GAMA asked the Commission to consider all of its testing data which they felt was not accurately discussed during briefing

--GAMA submitted additional information for the record, which inadvertently did not reach the Commissioners prior to briefing; Commissioners and staff agreed that further review was necessary and a decision would be delayed until all materials were reviewed

--an updated briefing will be scheduled in the near future before the decision meeting

--outlined the ongoing cooperative efforts with staff on various activities, including discussions about problems with used vented space heaters